

**Iowa Department of Natural Resources
Natural Resource Commission**

ITEM

17

DECISION

TOPIC

Notice of Intended Action--Chapter 81, Fishing Regulations

NRC approval is requested to file a Notice of Intended Action to amend Chapter 81, Sport Fishing Rule. The proposed amendments establish a 25 and 50 bag and possession limit on bluegill and crappie in the Iowa Great Lakes Chain.

The issue of panfish bag limits is not new in Iowa. It is important to note that there is no biological science that supports placement of liberal bag limits on panfish. Such limits do not improve fishing either by generating more fish to catch or increasing their size. Habitat including water quality is the key and needs always to be the primary focus.

All states surrounding Iowa except Illinois have statewide bag limits on panfish. Illinois addresses the issue on a lake by lake basis. The Iowa Great Lakes Fishing Club has generated a good deal of support for panfish bag limits in the Iowa Great Lakes. This action is in response to that request. Data from a July 2007 statewide survey of 923 Iowa licensed anglers reflected a 2 to 1 margin opposed to panfish bag limits.

Ken Herring, Administrator
Conservation and Recreation Division

Attachment: Chapter 81 Rule-Notice of Intended Action

August 9, 2007

NATURAL RESOURCE COMMISSION [571]

Notice of Intended Action

Pursuant to the authority of Iowa Code subsection 455A.5(6), the Natural Resource Commission hereby gives Notice of Intended Action to amend Chapter 81 "Fishing Regulations," Iowa Administrative Code.

The proposed amendment establishes a daily bag and possession limit for bluegill and crappie in six Dickinson County lakes.

Any interested person may make written suggestions or comments on the proposed amendment on or before September 28, 2007. Such written materials should be directed to Marion Conover, Department of Natural Resources, Wallace State Office Building, 502 East 9th Street, Des Moines, Iowa, 50319-0034; fax (515) 281-6794; or E-Mail Marion.Conover@dnr.state.ia.us. Persons who wish to convey their views orally should contact the Fisheries Bureau at (515) 281-5208 or at the Bureau offices on the fourth floor of the Wallace State Office Building.

Also, there will be a public hearing September 24, 2007, at 7:00pm in the Dickinson County Community Building, 1602 15th Street Spirit Lake, IA.

At the public hearing persons may present their views either orally or in writing. At the hearing persons will be asked to give their names and addresses for the record and to confine their remarks to the subject of the amendments.

Any person who intends to attend a public hearing and has special requirements such as those related to hearing or mobility impairments should contact the Department of Natural Resources and advise of specific needs.

These amendments are intended to implement Iowa Code sections 481A.38, 481A.39, 481A.67, and 481A.76.

The following amendments are proposed:

ITEM 1. Amend rule 571-81.1 (481A) as follows:**571—81.1(481A) Seasons, territories, daily bag limits, possession limits, and length limits.**

INLAND WATERS OF THE STATE					BOUNDARY RIVERS
KIND OF FISH	OPEN SEASON	DAILY BAG LIMIT	POSSESSION LIMIT	MINIMUM LENGTH LIMITS	MISSISSIPPI RIVER MISSOURI RIVER BIG SIOUX RIVER
Rock Sturgeon	Closed	0	0		Same as inland waters
Shovelnose Sturgeon	Continuous	None	None	None	Same as inland waters except no harvest allowed in the Big Sioux River and aggregate daily bag limit 10, aggregate possession limit 20, in the Missouri River

Paddlefish*	Continuous	2	4	None	Same as inland waters
Yellow Perch	Continuous	25	50	None	Same as inland waters except no bag or possession limit in the Missouri River
Trout	Continuous	5	10	None*	Same as inland waters
Catfish*	Continuous	8 Lakes 15 Streams	30	None	Same as inland waters except no bag or possession limit in Mississippi River
Black Bass (Largemouth Bass) (Smallmouth Bass) (Spotted Bass)	Continuous	3 In Aggregate	6	See below*	Continuous open season; aggregate daily bag limit 5, aggregate possession limit 10 See below*
Combined Walleye, Sauger and Saugeye	Continuous*	5*	10*	None*	Continuous open season; aggregate daily bag limit 6, aggregate possession limit 12; except aggregate daily bag limit 4, aggregate possession limit 8, in the Big Sioux and Missouri Rivers See below*
INLAND WATERS OF THE STATE					BOUNDARY RIVERS
Northern Pike	Continuous*	3	6	None	Continuous open season; daily bag limit 5, possession limit 10; except daily bag limit 6, possession limit 12, in the Big Sioux River
Muskellunge or Hybrid Muskellunge	Continuous*	1	1	40"	Same as inland waters
All other fish species*	Continuous	None <u>See Below*</u>	None <u>See Below*</u>	None	See below*
Frogs (except Bullfrogs)	Continuous	48	96	None	Same as inland waters

Bullfrogs (Rana Catesbeiana)	Continuous	12	12	None	Same as inland waters
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*Also see 81.2(481A), Exceptions.

ITEM 2. Amend subrule 81.2(12) as follows:

81.2(12) Panfish. In all waters of the Mississippi River, the daily bag and possession limit applied individually to crappie, yellow perch and rock bass shall be 25 and 50, respectively. In all waters of the Mississippi River, the daily bag and possession limit applied in the aggregate for bluegill and pumpkinseed and for white bass and yellow bass shall be 25 and 50, respectively. In Spirit Lake, West Okoboji Lake, East Okoboji Lake, Upper Gar Lake, Lower Gar Lake, and Minnewashta Lake in Dickinson County, the daily bag and possession limit applied individually to crappie and bluegill shall be 25 and 50, respectively.

Date

Richard A. Leopold, Director